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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6729th meeting of the Security Council, held on 5 March 2012, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Somalia", the President of the Council issued the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the International London Conference on Somalia held on 23 February 2012 and fully supports its conference communiqué. The Conference demonstrated the international community's political will and determination to support the Somali people as they build peace and stability in Somalia.

"The Security Council supports the progress made at the London Conference on Somalia, which affirmed international support, progress on the political process, security, increasing stability, economic development and action to address terrorism, piracy and hostage taking. The Council emphasised the need to build on agreement in London and continue to pursue a comprehensive strategy for the establishment of peace and stability in Somalia through the collaborative effort of all stakeholders. The Security Council also welcomes the meeting, which preceded the London Conference, on the ongoing and protracted humanitarian situation in Somalia.

"The Security Council further welcomes the consensus in London that the mandate of the Transitional Federal Institutions will end in August 2012 and that there will be no further extension of the transitional period. The Council welcomes commitments to work for a more representative government in Somalia, in line with the Transitional Federal Charter, the Djibouti Agreement, the Kampala Accord, the End of Transition Roadmap and the Garowe Principles. The Security Council reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Augustine P. Mahiga, and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) in facilitating progress towards peace and stability in Somalia, as well as that of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union. The Council welcomes the relocation of UNPOS to Mogadishu and encourages the UN to achieve a more permanent, full relocation to Somalia when security conditions allow.

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"The Security Council pays tribute to the contribution of AMISOM and the Somali national security forces to achieving a more peaceful and stable Somalia, and expresses its appreciation for the commitment of troops by troop contributing countries to AMISOM and the significant sacrifices made by both AMISOM and Somali forces. In this regard, the Security Council recalls resolution 2036 (2012) authorising an expansion of AMISOM, increasing the scale and scope of the UN Logistic Support Package to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of AMISOM's financing, and imposing an international ban on Somali charcoal. The Council welcomes the valuable financial support provided by the African Union's partners to AMISOM, including through bilateral support programmes from the United States of America and from the African Peace Facility of the European Union. The Security Council stresses the need for continued support to AMISOM and calls for further support from existing and new partners to provide equipment, funding for troop stipends to AMISOM and uncaveated funding including through the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM.

"The Security council recalls its resolutions 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, welcomes the progress made by AMISOM in reducing civilian casualties during its operations and urges AMISOM to continue to undertake enhanced efforts in this regard.

"The Security Council emphasises the importance of effective governance in Somalia and the delivery of basic services to the Somali people throughout Somalia. The Security Council underlines the need for further efforts to fight corruption and promote transparency in Somalia, and welcomes initiatives to increase transparency and accountability in the collection, and efficient use, of Somali public revenues.

"The Security Council underlines that the development of the Somali security forces and institutions is vital to ensure Somalia's long term security and stability and calls upon the international community in coordination with the UN and AMISOM to provide increased support to the Somali security and justice sectors. The Council fully supports the training of Somalia security forces through the bilateral support programmes of Member States and the European Union Training Mission for Somalia (EUTM).

"The Security Council supports efforts to expand existing stabilisation plans in Somalia to new sectors, welcomes increased international support to areas of stability, including through a new stability fund, and encourages further efforts to address Somalia's long-term reconstruction and economic development.

"The Security Council recognises that while the famine may have ended in Somalia, there are significant ongoing humanitarian needs. The Council underlines the high number of internally displaced persons in Somalia who urgently need support, and persons in need of emergency relief. The Council emphasises the need for the international community to provide well coordinated, timely and sustained humanitarian assistance to the Somali people, and to help build their resistance to future shocks, and stresses the importance of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The Security Council

demands that all parties ensure full and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to persons in need of assistance across Somalia, consistent with relevant humanitarian and human rights law.

"The Security Council welcomes the fact that effective countermeasures have led to a substantial reduction in the number of successful piracy-related attacks, although it notes with concern the increased incidence of attempted attacks. The Security Council remains gravely concerned about the ongoing threat posed by piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia, including the issue of hostage taking and the increasing use of violence against hostages, and the extended range of the piracy threat into the western Indian Ocean and adjacent sea areas. The Security Council recognises that the ongoing instability in Somalia contributes to the problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea, and stresses the need for a comprehensive response to repress piracy and armed robbery at sea and tackle its underlying causes. The Council welcomes the commitments made at the London Conference on new efforts to repress piracy, including efforts by bilateral donors and regional organisations to strengthen the capacity of Somalia and relevant states in the region to prosecute those responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and to imprison convicted pirates.

"The Security Council remains gravely concerned about the threat posed to Somalia and the international community by terrorist attacks by Somali armed opposition groups, in particular Al Shabaab, and welcomes the commitment made at the London Conference for renewed international action to address this threat, while ensuring full respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law. The Council also stresses the importance of addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

"The Security Council welcomes the intention of the Government of Turkey to hold a Conference on Somalia in Istanbul.

"The members of the Security Council will keep the situation in Somalia under close review."